

NATIONAL CANNERS ASSOCIATION



Information Letter



FOR N. C. A. MEMBERS

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Use of Two Weights on Label Not Permitted

In response to an inquiry respecting the permissibility of printing two statements of weight on a label so that the same label can be used, for instance, on either a No. 3 or No. 10 can, the Bureau of Chemistry has advised the Association as follows:

"The Federal Food and Drugs Act requires that the quantity of contents shall be stated in a plain and conspicuous manner on the outside of the package. The law contemplates that each size package shall bear its own statement of quantity of contents so that the purchaser can readily determine the amount of food in each package. The form of statement upon the label which you submit is not regarded as a compliance with the requirements of the law, as it is not to be expected that the purchaser shall be burdened with the necessity of measuring the package that he buys so as to determine the quantity contained therein. For this reason, each size of can should bear a plain and conspicuous statement of the net weight of that particular size."

Getting Brokers and Distributors Interested

The Canned Foods Week Committee last week addressed a letter to all canners asking that they tell their brokers and principal distributors that they are deeply interested in Canned Foods Week and that they hope to receive the brokers' and distributors' help in making it a success. Replying to this letter one canning company wrote to the Committee:

"Of course, we are vitally interested in Canned Foods Week. We are carrying out the suggestion and mailing the enclosed letter to our brokers and customers. Under no circumstances permit National Canned Foods Week to lapse."

This is what the canning company wrote to its brokers and customers:

"National Canned Foods Week has had, and will have, our continued enthusiastic support. We believe in it. It is the only

concerted movement of the present day of intensive advertising that features canned foods. Consumption of canned foods has increased rapidly. We believe the National Canned Foods Week campaign each year has contributed materially to this increase, and that it is one of the important factors that has led to that increase. The campaign has been well conducted—has grown stronger and stronger each year. Being enthusiastic about it, we naturally are keen to have it supported by all branches of the trade. We hope you are also for it."

Congress Takes No Final Action on Corn Sugar

Efforts were made by Senator Cummins during the final days of the session of Congress just ended, to get the Senate to accept the corn sugar bill in the form passed by the House. As action was possible only under unanimous consent, his efforts failed, objection being made to final consideration of the bill each time a motion was made to adopt the House amendment. At the close of the session the proposed legislation was in the same status as it had been for some weeks, that is, the Senate had passed a bill permitting the use of dextrose (corn sugar) and levulose (fruit sugar) in preserving or sweetening foods without requiring special labeling, while the House had passed the bill in amended form so as to permit the use of dextrose, levulose, and maltose in confectionery, frozen products, bakery products and meat and meat products without special labeling, but making no change in the present law as regards canned foods.

Navy Seeks Bids on Canned Foods

Further purchases of canned foods are contemplated by the Navy Department, which announces that bids will be opened on August 17 for 60,000 pounds of canned sardines for delivery at Brooklyn, Hampton Roads, or Boston. On the same date bids will be opened for 40,000 pounds of canned peaches for delivery at Boston, 80,000 pounds for delivery at Brooklyn, 40,000 pounds at Philadelphia, 200,000 pounds at Hampton Roads, and 80,000 pounds at Bremerton, Washington. On August 31 bids will be opened for assorted jams, 80,000 pounds for delivery at Boston, 180,000 pounds at Brooklyn, 40,000 pounds at Philadelphia, 200,000 pounds at Hampton Roads, 160,000 pounds at Mare Island, California, 120,000 pounds at Bremerton, Washington. Copies of Schedules 5631, 5638 and 5644 on which to submit bids may be obtained by writing to the Bureau of Supplies and Accounts, Navy Department, Washington.

Bait Fishery Regulations Amended

Under the amendment to the Alaska Fisheries Act, approved by the President on June 18, the U. S. Department of Commerce has amended the fisheries regulations for the Kodiak, Cook Inlet, Prince William Sound, Southeastern Alaska and Alaska Peninsula Areas so that the closed season for commercial herring fishing shall not apply to the taking of herring for bait purposes in waters otherwise open to fishing.

New Law Extends Liability of Initial Carriers

In Information Letter No. 160, it was reported that the Senate had passed a bill (S. 1344) which would extend the existing liability of the initial carrier for loss, damage or injury to property transported on a through bill of lading. The bill was amended and passed by the House on July 2 and on July 3 the Senate concurred in the House amendment.

Railroads Withdraw Proposed Increased Rates

By an order, referred to in Information Letter No. 156, the Interstate Commerce Commission suspended until August 15 schedules filed by carriers proposing to revise the freight rate on canned foods from stations on the Mobile and Ohio Railroad to Mississippi Valley points. The changes suspended would have resulted in general increases. The carriers having now filed a tariff canceling the schedules under suspension and continuing the present rates in force, the Interstate Commerce Commission has discontinued the proceeding.

Tomato Imports from Italy

During May the imports of canned tomatoes from Italy amounted to 2,447,989 pounds, approximately 1,300,000 pounds less than the amount imported during the month of April.

The following table gives the imports of both canned tomatoes and tomato paste for May, as compiled by the Statistical Division of the Department of Commerce:

	<i>Total Imports</i>	<i>From Italy</i>
Canned tomatoes:		
Pounds	2,448,112	2,447,989
Value	\$ 138,870	\$ 138,870
Canned tomato paste:		
Pounds	1,175,140	1,173,515
Value	\$ 95,261	\$ 95,089

Six Months Freight Traffic Breaks Record

Measured by car loadings, freight traffic for the first six months of 1926 was the heaviest ever recorded for the first half of the year. From January 1 to June 26 loadings of revenue freight totaled 25,036,464 cars, an increase of 707,974 cars over the corresponding period last year, and of 1,851,312 cars over the same period in 1924.

During the week ended June 26 loadings were, for the sixth time this year, above the million mark, amounting to 1,062,252 cars, an increase of 18,532 cars over the preceding week.

Development of Chilean Canning Industry

The growth of the fruit and vegetable canning industry in Chile has gradually made that country independent of foreign sources of supply, according to a report from the office of the American commercial attache in Santiago. The output has increased from 675,991 dozen cans in 1921 to 1,042,859 dozen in 1924.

In 1913 627 short tons of overseas canned fruit and vegetables were imported, but by 1925 only 27 short tons were brought in from abroad. On the other hand, exports which in 1913 amounted to 238 short tons, reached a high point in 1922 when 1,798 short tons were shipped to foreign consumers, but they averaged approximately 489 tons for the years 1921, 1923, 1924 and 1925.

Peaches, plums, apricots, strawberries, tomatoes, green peas, string beans and asparagus constitute practically the whole output of the seven leading producers, a very large proportion of which is consumed in the northern section of the Republic where vegetation is scarce.

Canned Food Market in Brazil

Commenting on the Brazilian market for canned foods, the American consul at Pernambuco writes the Department of Commerce:

"As to the possibility of increasing sales, American manufacturers can do very little at present to increase sales of canned fruits in this district. The demand for imported canned fruit comes chiefly from the higher classes. Advertising will, of course, help the American manufacturer to sell his special brand of canned fruit. On the other hand, there appears to be a market here for American canned vegetables, if they can be sold at prices to compete with the French and Portuguese brands."